

Mr. Tegetmeier laid before the members specimens illustrating the differences produced in the hens of the Common Pheasant and Domestic Fowl by disease or degeneration of the ovary.

The late Mr. Yarrell noticed that disease of the ovary in the hen Pheasant resulted in the assumption of the male plumage and voice. Mr. Tegetmeier exhibited a specimen of a game hen, that had become sterile from age, in which the plumage was completely changed to that of the male.

In cases of disease of the ovary in domestic hens, a different alteration ensues. The plumage remains perfectly unchanged, but the comb and wattles become extraordinarily developed, in many cases even surpassing those of the male bird in size. The birds crow like the males, and are popularly known as Hen-cocks. The alteration had been observed as resulting from melanosis of the ovary from cartilaginous degeneration, and from a generally diffused inflammation arising from the escape of an ovum from the oviduct.

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May 12, 1857.

Dr. Gray, F.R.S., in the Chair.

The following papers were read:—

1. ON *PARUS MERIDIONALIS* AND SOME OTHER SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE CATALOGUE OF BIRDS COLLECTED BY M. SALLÉ IN SOUTHERN MEXICO. BY PHILIP L. SCLATER, M.A., F.L.S., ETC.

In the Catalogue of Sallé's Mexican Collection, given in these Proceedings for last July, I described a new species of Titmouse under the name of *Parus meridionalis*. Not having at that time within my reach specimens of *Parus atricapillus* of the United States, it was not without hesitation that I separated the Mexican species from that bird. I am now, however, able to exhibit to the Society specimens of *Parus atricapillus* which I obtained in North America last autumn, and I think that a comparison of them with the type of my *Parus meridionalis* (which M. Sallé has again kindly placed in my hands) leaves no doubt that these two *Paris* are, as I had anticipated, really distinct, although closely allied species. In its upper plumage *Parus meridionalis* differs from *P. atricapillus* in having the back deeper cinereous without any tinge of brown—the narrow outer edgings of the secondaries are brownish and not white, and the black does not extend so far down the nape. Below, the plumage is also much darker; the whole abdomen and crissum being of a nearly uniform black.

No. CCCXXXII.—PROCEEDINGS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

form rather mouse-coloured cinereous, with a pale whitish medial line. In *Parus atricapillus* the whole middle of the belly is much lighter and more white, and the sides are deeply tinged with pale rufous.

There is not much difference in the size of the two species, but the tail of *Parus meridionalis* is slightly longer.

Mr. Gould's collection contains an example of *Parus meridionalis* also from Mexico.

With regard to other species contained in the same catalogue, I have to state that *Cyanocitta floridana* (sp. 135) is probably an immature bird of *C. ultramarina* (Temm.).

I have compared specimens of *Passerculus zonarius*, Bp. (sp. 187) with examples of *Peuceea lincolni*, which I obtained in the United States, and can discover no difference between them, and I consider these two names to be synonymous.

The bird named *Coturniculus henslowii* (sp. 187), upon further comparison does not seem distinct from the ordinary *C. passerinus*, of which I also possess specimens from Guatemala.

## 2. ON THREE NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS TODIROSTRUM.

BY PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A., F.L.S., ETC.

(Aves, Pl. CXXV.)

Sir William Jardine has kindly lent me some specimens of birds of the genus *Todirostrum* out of a collection received by him a short time ago through Professor Jameson of Quito from the Rio Napo. They were obtained in that locality, as I have reason to believe, by Don Villavicencio, a Naturalist who was some time resident at Porto del Napo, on the Upper Rio Napo, where the Italian traveller Osculati mentions having seen him in 1847. Two of them appear to be certainly undescribed. The third is not in a very good state of preservation, but I think it may possibly be referable to Dr. Hartlaub's *T. rufilatum*.

### 1. TODIROSTRUM CALOPTERUM, n. s. (Pl. CXXV. fig. 1.)

*Supra flavescens-olivaceum; pileo et cauda nigris: alis nigris, harum tectricibus late flavis, campterio intense badio; secundariis ultimis extus flavicante limbatis: subtus flavum; gutture albo: tectricibus subalaribus flavidis: rostro nigro: pedibus pallidis.*

Long. tota 3·6, alæ 1·9, caudæ 1·2.

*Hab.* In rep. Equatoriana in ripis fl. Napo.

*Mus.* Gul. Jardine, Baronetti.

This is a typical *Todirostrum*, but with the beak rather shorter and broader than in *T. cinereum*. The only known species which it at all resembles in colouring is *T. nigriceps*, mihi (P. Z. S. 1855, p. 76. pl. 84. fig. 1), from which it may be at once distinguished by the fine deep chestnut colouring of the bend of the wing. It is, I think, the most beautiful species of this group yet discovered.